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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No: 1309	Press. / Mis.
Dated 15.8.1878	197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Archives I—5,806—24-2-78.

1309/1

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

15th August 1878, No. 1,309.

Read the following paper :—

No. 197. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 25th July 1878, No. 2,067.

Read the following letter from C. S. CROLE, Esq., Acting Collector of Kurnool, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 11th July 1878, No. 270 :—

I HAVE the honor to enclose a report from the Special Sub-Collector regarding the proposition to appoint so-called Assistant Curnams to transact business connected with the Irrigation Canal Company's operations during the unavoidable absences of the regular Curnams from their villages.

Vide Board's Proceedings, dated 4th August 1877, No. 3,654, on G.O., dated 11th July 1877, No. 153-I.
Paragraph 3 of G.O., dated 19th March 1878, No. 423.

2. The duties of the Curnam of a canal village are, first, to receive, register, and forward the verbal applications of ryots for water or written applications forwarded by canal officers ; and, secondly, to enter the area in each revenue field irrigated monthly when the crop is cut, to measure these pieces up and enter them in an irrigation chitta, and to make certain returns.

3. If care be taken to guard against unnecessary elaboration of accounts, all the above duties fall within the every-day work of any Curnam. Were the canal a Government work no one would dream of giving him any assistance to perform them, for whether he be temporarily absent or present not a single foot of soil is either irrigated or cultivated without his knowledge. In point of fact, as every revenue officer can see for himself at a Jamabandi, the Curnam has always an unrecognized assistant, often a relative, who keeps things going in the village during the absence or sickness of his principal.

4. But we are entangled with a Company which seeks in every direction but the true one for the causes of its failure. I had arrived independently at much the same conclusions as those expressed* by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, but I cannot admit with him that, in this matter, the Company have reasonable cause of complaint against Government.

* *Vide* G.O., dated 27th November 1877, No. 3,311.

5. It was seen at the commencement of the Company's career that it could not get on without the Village Curnam any more than Government can. Mr. Latham, however, knows better, and he did not cease to agitate until he was allowed to substitute his own officers. Having got what he wanted, with a result easily foreseen, he harked back to the sheltering arms of the Curnam *cum* the canal officer, and now he proposes to go still further in the same direction by appointing a Canal Curnam for each village. It will thus be seen that he is responsible to no small extent for the evils of which he complains.

6. If the canal were a Government work no remuneration would be required for the Curnam. The sanctioned *percentage* under the Canal Rules is 6 Pies in each Rupee of water-rate. It is proposed now to increase this to 1 Anna; that is to say, Government are asked to forego $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. of the inconsiderable revenue yielded by the work, in order to secure the performance of a duty for which the Curnam is really paid already.

7. It being assumed, however, that this measure has already been decided on, the only feasible method of working it will be to do as the Special Sub-Collector proposes, *i.e.*, to make each Curnam nominate a deputy to take his place during his absence for whom he should be responsible. I agree that the object being to render revenue canal administration part of a homegeneous whole, this end would be defeated if an Assistant Curnam were appointed for canal work alone. He must be the regular Curnam's recognized deputy in the performance of *all* duties requiring attention during the temporary absences of the former officer.

8. I do not, however, concur in recommending the introduction of this system in large villages merely. This would never check the evil.

9. It would be idle to deny that the chief advantage of the costly scheme placed before Government consists in depriving the Company's officers for the future of one of those "causes of complaint," which, as Colonel Mullins observes, "it may be much to their future interest that they should remain." It is quite plain that if the arrangement is not carried out universally, the opportunity for vague complaints, couched in the excited language which has too frequently been adopted, will remain, and will not fail to be taken full advantage of as long as a single village is unprovided.

10. Excluding Nandial, Kottapalle and Chakirajvemala, for which regular Assistant Curnams are required, and must be appointed, there are 130 villages under canal irrigation in this district. For each of these I would insist on the nomination and registration of a deputy. As I have stated above, this course will entail no hardship on the regular Curnam. Moreover, I learn from Mr. Lister that he has actually already procured the assent of all the Curnams to the arrangement. In every village there is a considerable extent of land admittedly likely to come under irrigation shortly, and one of the first results of the arrangement would be to throw the weight of the Curnam's influence into the scale of the extension of legitimate irrigation.

11. At the same time if it is finally decided to adopt the 1-Anna rate, I have the honor to recommend that it should be limited to a maximum of Rupees 5 *per* month, which is ample for any one village.

12. I now turn to the second of Mr. Lister's proposals. This is embodied in his letter, No. 105, dated 14th May 1878.

13. He requests sanction for the appointment of eight Revenue Inspectors who are to be employed on canal work only. Their duties are to be the supervision and instruction of Curnams, the checking of accounts, the inspection of irrigation, the measuring up of the bits of fields, the plotting out of subdivisions of fields on the village maps, and the examination of withered crops.

14. One Inspector is wanted for each of the taluqs of Ramalcotta and Koilkuntla, and two for each of the taluqs of Nandial, Sirwell and Nandikotkur. Their pay is to be Rupees 30 per mensem each. Eight peons on Rupees 6 are required for them. This proposal entails a further annual charge of Rupees 3,456, equal to 2·8 per cent. of the estimated irrigation revenue this year in Kurnool (Rupees 1,20,000).

15. Including the proposed remuneration to Curnams and the cost of four additional Revenue Inspectors whom I understand Mr. Lister has recommended for Cuddapah, 9·4 per cent. of the estimated earnings of the canal will be absorbed by these arrangements.

	Revenue.	Salaries of staff.
	Rs	Rs.
Kurnool	1,20,000	...
Cuddapah	10,000	...
Total ...	1,30,000	—1,41,138
Deficit		= 11,138

16. Superior authority must decide whether it is prepared to relinquish this amount in addition to 18·8 *per cent.* for the Special Sub-Collector's establishment, and in face of the fact that, according to the Canal Budget, the estimated revenue, even if realized, will not cover the cost of the Company's salaried staff for 1878-79.

17. All revenue officers are at one with Mr. Lister in advocating a large increase to the Revenue Inspectorate of districts; but it is at the same time undeniable that irrigation revenue far larger, and interests incomparably greater than any involved in the Kurnool Canal are not seriously jeopardised owing to the alleged weaness of the inspecting establishment.

18. As was stated above regarding the Curnams, the sole defence of the proposed expenditure lies in the necessity for putting an end to the systematic complaints against the revenue system. The Irrigation Canal will have establishments as strong and perfect as it is possible to make them—far more so than are thought or found necessary for the protection of the Government revenue. If there is any soundness in the management of the concern, therefore, it must now at once show itself.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From A. L. LISTER, Esq., Special Sub-Collector in charge of Irrigation, Kurnool and Cuddapah, to C. S. CROLE, Esq., Acting Collector of Kurnool, dated Dhoor, 14th May 1878, No. 104.

I HAVE the honor to submit my views about the appointment of Assistant Curnams.

2. Until last month I was under the impression that the question was an open one, but in G.O., No. 423, of the 19th March, reference is made to a Government Order in the Public Works Department in which the appointment of Assistant Curnams is approved. If it has been settled that Assistant Curnams, which I understand to mean salaried officials holding their appointments independently of the Curnam, are to be appointed, adequate remuneration must be given to insure efficiency, and no Curnams should receive less than 6 Rupees a month and 1 Anna for each Rupee of irrigation revenue; if an Assistant Curnam were appointed to each village with an irrigation beriz of 1,000 Rupees, twenty-seven Curnams would be required at a monthly cost of Rupees 162.

3. But I wish very respectfully to submit my opinion that the appointment of salaried Assistant Curnams to look after irrigation matters would have a most prejudicial effect, and would from the very commencement of work tend to increase the separation of canal administration from the ordinary revenue administration of the district, which has in my view been one of the principal causes of the difficulties and failure of the Company.

4. I am anxious in a preliminary report on the special subject of Curnams, not to touch upon the general question of pure revenue administration in some of the taluqs traversed by the canal, but I must give an instance—a sample case of the action taken last season by the Deputy Collector with regard to his Curnams.

5. The Curnam of Chundookur tells me that he with the other Curnams followed the Deputy Collector's Cutcherry from the 4th July to the 8th August to Velpanoor, Pagadial, Nandikotkur, Gadinemala and Kurnool, and on the 10th August he returned to his village; from the 27th February to the end of March he was detained in the Taluq Cutcherry for the preparation of Jamabandi accounts.

6. If Divisional Officers and Tahsildars attach no importance to Curnams remaining in their villages, they cannot be expected to stay there; it is inconceivable how a Divisional Officer could keep the Curnams trailing after him through two other taluqs at the very time when they ought to have been registering applications for water; a more injurious and detrimental proceeding for the Company it were hard to imagine.

7. If this sort of administration is to be continued then no doubt two men are wanted to do the work of one; but in my humble opinion it would be far better to alter the style of administration and to leave Curnams in their villages to do their own work.

8. I do not think the opinion, that the work in irrigated villages is too much for the Village Curnam, is well-grounded; the more I look into the subject the less the work seems for a Curnam *who does his ordinary revenue work* according to the rules; unfortunately there are none such; I have to educate the Curnams; even Village Account No. 1 has not been written up by one single Curnam in all the necessary columns.

9. What is the extra work a Curnam has to do? He is *supposed* for ordinary revenue administration to go over his fields monthly; when he does, I want him to write in the source of irrigation column the approximate area irrigated in each field (Ka. A-2·31), and to submit monthly the total of this column; when the adangal is written or when the crop is cut the actual measurement has to be taken, and similarly entered in the source of irrigation column; a separate Irrigation Chittah (Account No. 5) must be kept; some Curnams find it more convenient to keep separate collection books with a view to the preparation of the elaborate return of collections prescribed by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation. I have recommended the abolition of this return in its present form, and if the collections are allowed to be entered in one column these additional books can be dispensed with, and there can be a separate column for irrigation collections in the ordinary Accounts Nos. 10 and 11 by which an enormous amount of clerical labor will be saved and a wide door for embezzlement closed.

10. The Board must be told that in the taluqs of Ramalcottah, Nandikotkur, and Nandial not a single Curnam has yet received an anna of remuneration, although half an anna in the rupee was sanctioned four years ago; when I talked to them about an anna in the rupee yielding a monthly salary of Rupees 5 in thousand rupee villages, one of them with more point than courtesy observed that promises were all very well in their way, but that they had had enough of them in the last three or four years and they would now like to receive the money.

11. The grave objection, in my humble opinion, to independent salaried Assistant Curnams is that it is impossible to clothe them with the requisite authority and power, and that what is easy for the Curnam to do would be difficult for them. I do not believe it possible for one single acre of land to be irrigated in a village without the Curnam hearing of it, whereas an Assistant Curnam would not have the same means of information at his disposal; an Assistant Curnam too would have his attacks of fever, his marriages, his Court business, and his private vocations, and would not always be in his village.

12. What class of men are to supply these Assistant Curnams? If a member of the family is taken we lose the salary, and the weight of the missal Curnam's responsibility; if an outsider, with no maniem land, an inefficient raw youth with no responsibility is all we can get for 6 Rupees.

13. In Kulloor, the largest irrigation village in Ramalcottah Taluq, the Curnam died last year; there is in that village an Assistant Curnam of poor attainments on Rupees 6 a month; now Kulloor, the Board must know, is Kurnool, the cusbah station itself, of all places the easiest to procure extraneous help for a village; this Assistant Curnam was unable to give in *any accounts at all* for irrigation, and the settlement had to be conducted on the Company's books only. I want this to be fully realized; if the Company had not kept officers to do Revenue work and to record the irrigation, we should have had no accounts at all for about 3,000 Rupees owing to the Company.

14. I have talked the matter over with the Curnams, and of course they all wanted to have a member of the family as salaried Assistant Curnam, but they were reasonable and logical. I explained to them that if the Assistant Curnams were paid, they would not have the nomination of them, and they would lose the irrigation allowance; and when I pressed them about the additional work entailed by the canal, they admitted, what it was impossible to deny that it was but slight if they did their Revenue work properly.

15. The work connected with the registration of irrigated land must be regarded as part and parcel of ordinary revenue administration and as a portion of the Curnam's legitimate duties; the Curnams must be held responsible and must have a regular trial under Regulation IX of 1822 and be fined heavily if they neglect it personally; the Curnam, who has gained that envied position in which a man can damage his enemies and serve his friends, and who has the power, influence, and respect which such a position carries with it, can easily secure every irrigated acre being brought to account, and he must be made to do it; my own impression is that they only want some one person in authority to be terribly in earnest about the matter to do it at once; neglect of duty must be promptly and sternly punished; but I hope such punishments will be rarely needed, and what the Curnams want is instruction and supervision rather than punishment at all events in the early days of the substitution of order and work for anarchy and indolence.

16. The Board's plan for carrying on the work during the temporary absence of the Curnam is, in my humble opinion, not only far the best, but the only one likely to be successful; I propose exactly and precisely what the Board suggested in paragraph No. 5 of their Proceedings of the 4th August, No. 3,654; for easy reference I will put the proposal here:—

"That each Curnam of a canal village be required to nominate a friend or relative to be duly registered as Deputy Curnam, who will conduct the duties of the office during the absence of the Curnam 'and on his responsibility; the Curnam will make his own arrangements about remuneration with his Deputy."

17. This differs from the Board's proposal in one particular to which I would ask attention. The Board proposed that the Deputy Curnam should act for the Curnam in matters connected with the Company's business only; why make any distinction between the different duties of the Curnams; why say to a Deputy Curnam, "the Curnam is a witness at the Session Court in September. You must report the irrigated area in the village, receive applications for water and credit in the accounts all irrigation collections, but you must not credit ordinary revenue collections, nor need you send the monthly cultivation account to the taluq." I recommend that the whole mantle of the Curnam should fall on his Deputy during his absence, for I want to keep one set of books only.

18. This differs from Mr. Latham's proposal in the matter of payment only; Mr. Latham seemingly proposed that the Deputy Curnam should receive all the remuneration; this would lead to the irrigation work being thrown on the Deputy entirely, even when the Curnam was present, on the broad principle that he ought to do the work for which he gets the pay; but I would prefer the Curnam doing the work if he can and drawing the pay; it is clear too that if the Curnams of very large villages were rarely absent, and did all their work while they were there, it would be needless to give a registered Deputy, upon whom no duties chanced to devolve, upwards of Rupees 100 remuneration.

19. There is not the least difficulty about carrying out this plan. Twenty-one Curnams in Sirwell, twenty in Nandial, and seven in Koilkuntla have already nominated Deputy Curnams; one additional Curnam is required at Nandial, the ordinary revenue of which is Rupees 17,196, and I recommend the appointment of a third Curnam to be employed in the hamlet of Kottapalli on a monthly salary of Rupees 10; there are already two Curnams, but a third is necessary.

20. I was prepared to recommend an additional salaried Curnam for Chakirajavemala in Koilkuntla Taluq, where the land revenue is Rupees 7,000 and the irrigation revenue Rupees 1,500; but the Tahsildar asked me not to do so, as he dislikes Assistant Curnams; every one knows how very very difficult it is unless there are separate hamlets to divide the work of a village between two Curnams, and if all the work can be got out of one man, it is better not to employ an assistant; notwithstanding the Tahsildar's objection however and my disinclination to increase village establishments, I would prefer provisional sanction for the employment of an Assistant Curnam on Rupees 10 a month at Chakirajavemala in the event of its being found necessary to appoint him. I think the Assistant Curnam necessary, but with my short local experience I hesitate to make a recommendation for permanent increase of establishments in opposition to the wish of the Tahsildar who seems particularly able and intelligent.

21. It is not clear why in the new issue of Rules 6 Pies in the rupee and not 1 Anna was entered for the Curnam's renumeration as Mr. Latham had agreed to the proposed addition. I think this should be altered to 1 Anna.

22. The statement called for in paragraph 6 of Board's Proceedings of 4th August, No. 3,654, is enclosed with the number of Assistant Curnams proposed by Ramachendra Rao; the future extensions of irrigation under improved arrangements need hardly be taken into account in connection with my present proposals as they involve no expense.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.—Special Sub-Collector's letter, dated 14th May 1878, No. 105, copy of which is embodied in Board's Proceedings, dated 13th July 1878, No. 1,947.

ENCLOSURES No. 3 and 4.—Statements.

WITH the foregoing letter the Collector of Kurnool submits two letters from the Sub-Collector in charge of Irrigation dealing with the questions of the appointment of Assistant Curnams and the entertainment of additional Revenue Inspectors. The Board have already supported Mr. Lister's recommendations regarding the additional staff required for supervision in their Proceedings, dated 13th July, No. 1,947, forwarding a letter from the Collector of Cuddapah on the subject, and sanction has been accorded in G.O., dated 22nd July 1878, No. 1,141, just received.

2. As regards the Assistant Curnams, it will be seen that Mr. Lister concurs in the view expressed in the Board's Proceedings, dated 4th August 1877, No. 3,654, that the registration of Deputies nominated by the regular Curnams to conduct the duties of the office during the latter's absence and on his responsibility is preferable to the appointment of independent salaried Assistant Curnams, and he considers that it should be the duty of such Deputies to assist the Curnams in all matters pertaining to their office and not in those connected with the Company's business only. The Collector points out that this measure would be quite unnecessary if the canal were a Government work, but looking to the complaints that have been persistently advanced by the Company's officers of a want of assistance from the officers of Government and the desirability of leaving no room for such complaints in future he recommends the introduction of the system in all the villages under canal irrigation in the district, 130 in number. For three villages, where the irrigation interests are considerable, viz., Nandial, Kottapalli and Chakirajavemula, one Assistant Curnam each on Rupees 10 per mensem is required. The remuneration allowed to the Curnams under the rules out of canal revenue will be raised from 6 Pies to 1 Anna in the rupee, and the Curnams will be left to recompense their Deputies as may be agreed upon by private arrangement. Mr. Crole would limit the allowance to be paid to the Curnams in any one village to a maximum of Rupees 5 per mensem, but the Board think this would diminish the inducement to promote the extension of cultivation, and they would allow the full benefit to be reaped at any rate for the present. The Board support the proposals. It is presumed that similar arrangements will be made in Cuddapah.

3. The cause of the non-payment of the sanctioned remuneration adverted to at paragraph 10 of Mr. Lister's letter of the 14th May, No. 104, should have been explained. The proper course appears to be to deduct the amount due before carrying the collections to the credit of the Company, the deduction being of course shown as a charge and the entire collections as receipts. The mode of adjustment for the future should be distinctly settled in communication with the Canal officers to obviate a repetition of the delay brought to notice, and the result reported.

4. Sanction is requested for substituting "1 Anna" for "6 Pies" in Clause XXI of the Rules approved in G.O., dated 5th December 1877, No. 3,359.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Acting Secretary.

No. 198. ORDER THEREON, 15th August 1878, No. 1,309.

Irrigation, No. 3.

THE question of the entertainment of additional Revenue Inspectors for irrigation duties in the Kurnool and Cuddapah Districts has already been disposed of by the sanction accorded in G.O., 22nd July 1878, No. 1,141, R.D.

2. The second question discussed in the papers recorded above relates to the appointment of Assistant Curnams regarding whom detailed arrangements were to be reported for approval with reference to paragraph 3 of G.O., 19th March 1878, No. 423, R.D.

3. As the Irrigation and Canal Company's Agent is in favor of the higher rate of remuneration, viz., one anna in the rupee of the Company's adjusted gross demand, His Grace the Governor in Council is pleased to sanction the modification of the Water-rate Rule XXI* by the substitution of "one anna" for "six pies," on the condition that each Curnam is to nominate a deputy to act for him in every capacity in his absence from the village and on his responsibility, he providing the remuneration.

*G.O., 5th December 1877, No. 3,359.

4. The Government understand that the assistant salaried Curnams, whose appointment is proposed in paragraphs 19 and 20 of Mr. Lister's letter, are to be paid at the cost of the Company.

5. His Grace in Council accepts the Board's recommendations throughout. The result should be reported in due course.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
" the Public Works Department.
" the Accountant-General.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

1309
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Revenue Department

No 2067.

130 1/2

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
Dated 25 July 1870.

Read letter from the
Collector of Kurnool, dated
11 July 1870 No 270

With the foregoing letter
the Collector of Kurnool submits
two letters from the Sub Collector
in charge of Srisgotion detail-
ing with the question of appointment
Canungoes and the entertain-
ment of additional Peons
Inspectors. The Board have
already supported the Collector's
recommendations regarding the
additional staff required for
supervision in their Proceedings
dated 13 July No. 1947 forwarding

a

Madras
Printed by Gantz Bros.
REVENUE
The Hon'ble
Secretary
No 3153/71
15 June 1871
No 637/71/19

a letter from the Collector of
Cuddapah on the subject and
sanction has been accorded
in G.O. dated 22nd July 1878
No. 1141 post examined.

2. As regards the Agricultural Overseer it will be seen that the Letter concurs in the view expressed in the Board's Proceedings dated 4th August 1877 No. 1364 that the appointment of Deputies nominated by the regular overseers to conduct the duties of the office during the latter's absence and on his responsibility is preferable to the appointment of independent salaried agricultural overseers, and he considers that it should be the duty of such De-

Deputies to assist the overseers in all matters pertaining to their office and not in those connected with the Company's business only. The Collector points out that this measure would be quite unnecessary if the Canal were a Government work, but looking to the complaints that have been persistently advanced by the Company's Officers of a want of agricultural supervision and offices of Government and the desirability of leaving no room for such complaints in future, he recommends the introduction of the system in all the villages under Canal irrigation in the District 130 in number. For 3 villages, where the irrigation interests are consi-

derable

to promote the extension of cultivation and they would allow the full benefit to be reaped at any rate for the present. The Board support the proposals. It is presumed that similar arrangements will be made in Caddapah.

3. The cause of the non-payment of the sometimes remuneration adverted to at para. 10 of the letter of the 14th May No 104 should have been explained. The proper course appears to be to deduct the amount due before advising the collections to the credit of the Company, the deduction being of course shown as a charge and the entire collections as receipts. The mode

= siderable, viz, Nundial, Kottapalli and Chatirieyenula pay a pistrak cumum each of Rupees 10 per measure is required. The remuneration allowed to the Cumums under the Rules at present Cawnah rent will be raised from 6 pie to one anna in the Rupee, and the Cumums will be left to recover their Deputies as may be agreed upon by private arrangement. This mode would limit the allowance to be paid to the Cumums in any one village to a maximum of Rupees 5 per measure, but the Board think this would diminish the inducement to

No. 104. Camp Ohoi

1309/8

mode of adjustment for the future should be distinctly settled in communication with the Canal officers to obviate a repetition of the delay brought to notice, and the result reported.

5. Sanction is requested for substituting "one pound" for "six pice" in clause XXI of the Rules approved in G.O. dated 5. December 1879 No. 3359.

/True Extract/

C. Gupta
Asst Secretary

To. The Secretary to
Government R.D.

with three original enclosures
also returned, and copy of
the Collr's letter dated 14
May 1879 No. 104, also
copy of Collector's letter

Spl. Subdivisl Office
Camp Dhoon
14th May 1878.

No. 104.

From

The Special Subdivisional Collector
In charge of Irrigation,
Kumaon and Saddapal.

To

The Ag Collector of Kumaon.

Sir,

I have the honor to submit my views about the appointment of assistant Kumaons.

2. Until last month I was under the impression that the question was an open one but in para 3 of G.O. No. 423 of the 19th March reference is made to a G.O. in the P.W.D. in which the appointt of assistant Kumaons is approved; if it has been settled that assistant Kumaons which I understand to mean salaried officials holding their appointments independently of the Kumaons are to be appointed, adequate remuneration must be given to insure efficiency; and six Kumaons should receive less than 6 Rs a month and one anna for each rupee of Irrigation revenue if an assistant Kumaon were appointed to each village with an irrigation area of 1000 Rs, 27 Kumaons would be required at a monthly cost of Rs 162.

3. But I wish very respectfully to submit my

ing opinion that the appointt. of salaried assistant Kurnums to look after Irrigation matters must have a most prejudicial effect, and would from the very commencement of work tend to increase the separation of Canal administration from the ordinary Revenue Administration of the District which has in my view been one of the principal causes of the difficulties and failure of the Company.

4. I am anxious in a preliminary report on the special subject of Kurnums, not to touch upon the general question of joint Revenue Administration in some of the Talugs traversed by the Canal; but I must give an instance - a sample case of the action taken last season by the Dy. Collector with regard to his Kurnums.

5. The Kurnum of Chinchoor, tells me that he with the other Kurnums followed the Deputy Collr. on tour from the 4th July to 8th August to Velpanur, Pagadial, Nandikotkur, Gudimalla and Kanool and on the 10th August he returned to his village; from the 27th February to the end of March he was detained in the Talug Cutchery for the preparation of Summabandy Account.

If

6. If Divisional Officers attach no importance to Kurnums remaining in their villages, they cannot be expected to stay there it is inconceivable how a Divisional Officer could keep the Kurnums waiting after him thro' two other Talugs at the very time when they ought to have been registering applications for water; a more injurious and detrimental proceeding for the Company it were hard to imagine.

7. If this sort of administration is to be continued then no doubt two men are wanted to do the work of one; but in my humble opinion it would be far better to alter the style of administration and to leave Kurnums in their villages to do their own work.

8. I do not think the opinion that the work in irrigated villages is too much for the village Kurnum, is well grounded, the more I look into the subject the less the work seems for a Kurnum who does his ordinary Revenue work according to the rules; unfortunately there are none such; I have to educate the Kurnums even Village Account No 1 has not been written up by one single Kurnum in all the

necessary

necessary columns.

9. What is the extra work a Kurnum has to do? he is supposed for ordinary revenue administration to go over his fields monthly; when he does so. I want him to write in the source of Irrigation Column, the approximate area irrigated in each field (Rs 2. 31) and to submit monthly the total of this column, when the adangal is written or when the crop is cut the actual measurement has to be taken, and similarly entered in the source of Irrigation Column; a separate Irrigation Cbitta (Account No 3) must be kept; some Kurnums find it more convenient to keep separate collection books with a view to the preparation of the elaborate returns of Collections prescribed by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation; I have recommended the abolition of this returns in its present forms, and if the collections are allowed to be entered in one column these additional books can be dispensed with, and there can be a separate column for Irrigation Collections in the ordinary accounts No 10 & 11, by which an enormous amount of clerical labor will be saved, and an

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wide door for embezzlement closed.

10. The Board must be aware that in the Taluqs of Ramalacottah, Nandikotkur and Nandial not a single Kurnum has yet received an anna of remuneration although half an anna in the rupee was sanctioned four years ago; when I talked to them about an anna in the rupee yielding a monthly salary of Rs 5 in a thousand Rupee Villages, one of them with more than his country observed that promises were all very well in this way, but that they had had enough of them in the last three or four years and they would now like to receive the money.

11. The great objection in my humble opinion is that it is impossible to clothe them with the requisite authority and power, and that what is easy for the Kurnum to do would be difficult for them; I do not believe it possible for one single acre of land to be irrigated in a village without the Kurnum hearing of it, whereas an Assistant Kurnum would not have the same means of information at his disposal; an Assistant Kurnum too would have his attacks

attacks of fever, his marriages, his court business and his private vocations, and would not always be in his village.

12. What class of men are to supply these assistant Kurnams? If a member of the family is taken, we lose the salary, and the weight of the missal Kurnams responsibility; if an outsider, with no manium land, an inefficient raw youth with no responsibility is all we can get for Rs 6-

13. In Kullur - the largest Irrigation village - in Rambattah Taluq - the Kurnam died last year - there is in that village an Asstt. Kurnam of four attainment on Rs 6 a month; Now Kullur, the Board must know, is Kurnool the Cudpah Station itself - of all places the easiest & procure extraneous help for a village this Assistant Kurnam was unable to give in any account at all for irrigation, & the Settlement had to be conducted on the Company's books only; I want this to be fully realized; if the Compy had not kept officers to do Revenue work and to record the irrigation, we should have had no account at all for about 3000 Rupees owing to the Company

Company.

14 I have talked the matter over with the Kurnams and of Course they all wanted to have a member of the family as salaried Assistant Kurnam; but they were reasonable and logical; I explained to them that if the Assistant Kurnams were paid, they would not have the nomination of them and they would lose the Irrigation allowance and when I proposed them about the additional work entailed by the Canal, they admitted what it was impossible to deny, that it was but slight if they did their Revenue work properly.

15 The work connected with the registration of irrigated land must be regarded as part and parcel of ordinary Revenue Administration and as a portion of the Kurnam's legitimate duties the Kurnams must be held responsible and must have a regular trial under Regulation IX of 1822 and be fined heavily if they neglect it personally; the Kurnam who has gained that envied position in which a man can damage his enemies and serve his

his friends, and who has the power, influence and respect which such a position carries with it can easily secure every irrigated case being brought to account and he must be made to do it; my own impression is that they only want some one person in authority who is terribly in-earnest about the matter, to do it at once, neglect of duty must be promptly and sternly punished; but I hope such punishments will be rarely needed and what the Kurnams want is instruction & supervision rather than punishment - at all events in the early days of the substitution of order and work for anarchy and indolence.

16 The Board's plan for carrying on the work during the temporary absence of the Kurnam is in my humble opinion not only far the best but the only one likely to be successful; I propose exactly and precisely what the Board suggested in Para No 5 of their Proceedings of the 4th August No 3654; for easy reference I will put the proposal here.

"That each Kurnam of a Canal Village be required to nominate a friend or relative to be duly registered as Deputy Kurnam who will conduct the duties of the office during the absence of the Kurnam and on his responsibility; the Kurnam will make his own arrangements about remuneration with his Deputy."

17 This differs from the Board's proposal in one particular to which I would ask attention. The Board proposed that the Deputy Kurnam should act for the Kurnam in matters connected with the Company's Why make any distinction between the different duties of the Kurnam Why say to a Deputy Kurnam "The Kurnam is a witness at the Sessions Court in September You must report the irrigated Area in the Village, receive Application for water and Credit in the Accounts all irrigation Collection but you must not Credit ordinary Revenue Collections, nor need you send the monthly Cultivation Accounts to the Taluq" I recommend that the whole Mantle of the Kurnam should

should fall on his Deputy during his absence; for I want to keep one Set of books only.

18 This differs from Mr Latham's proposal in the matter of payment only: Mr Latham seemingly proposed that the Deputy Kurnam should receive all the remuneration; this would lead to the irrigation work being thrown on the Deputy entirely, even when the Kurnam was present, on the broad principle that he ought to do the work for which he gets the pay; but I would prefer the Kurnam doing the work if he can and drawing the pay; it is clear too that if the Kurnams of very large villages were rarely absent, and did all their work while they were there, it would be needless to give a registered Deputy, upon whom no duties chanced to devolve upwards of 100 Rs remuneration

19 There is not the least difficulty about Carrying out this plan. 21 Kurnams in Tamil 20 in Canarese and 9 in Kolkunla have already nominated Deputy Kurnams One additional Kurnam [illegible] Deal, the ordinary revenue of which is Rs 1496 and I recommend the appointment of a third Kurnam to be employed in the hamlet of Kottapally on a monthly slary of Rs 10; there are already two Kurnams but a third is necessary

20 I was prepared to recommend an additional Salaried Kurnam for Chakrajapatna in Kolkunla Talug where the land revenue is 9000 and the irrigation revenue 1500; but the Sahsildar asked me not to do so, as he dislikes Assistant Kurnams; every one knows how very difficult it is unless you know very well to divide the work of a village between two Kurnams and if all the work can be got out of one man, it is better not to employ an Assistant; notwithstanding the Sahsildar's objection however and my disinclination to increase village establishments, I would prefer provisional Sanction for the employment of an Assistant Kurnam on Rs 10 a month at Chakrajapatnam in the event of its being found necessary to appoint him I think the Assistant Kurnam necessary

but

1309/15

but with my short local experience I hesitate to make a recommendation for permanent increase of establishments in opposition to the wish of the Tahsildar who seems particularly able and intelligent.

21 It is not clear why in the new issue of Rules 6 pies in the rupee and not one anna was entered for the Kurnum's remuneration as Mr. Pattani had agreed to the proposed addition; I think this should be altered to one anna.

22 The Statement called for in para 6 of Boards Proceedings of 4th August No. 3654 is enclosed with the number of Assistant Kurnums proposed by Rama Chendra Roa; the future extensions of irrigation under improved arrangements need hardly be taken into account in connection with my present proposals as they involve no expense.

I have &c
(Sd) A. L. Lister
Spl. Sub Collector

/True copy/

A. Secretary

Enclosure in Bds Proc. of the Revenue Board dated 18th July 1878 No 2087

Recd 18th July 1878

Kurnool Collector's Office
No 270. Dated 11th July 1878.

From,

The Asst Collector of Kurnool

To,

The Secretary to the
Board of Revenue
Madras

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose a report from the Special Subcollector regarding the proportion to appoint so called Assis. tant Kurnums, to transact business connected with the Irrigation Canal Company's ~~operations~~ operations during the unavoidable absences of the regular Kar-nums from their Villages.

2. The duties of the Kurnam of a Canal Village are, first to receive, register, and forward the verbal applications of ryots for water, or written applications forwarded by Canal Officers, and 2dly to enter

Vide Bds Proc 27th Augt 77 No 3654 and G.O dd 11th July 1877 No 153 I Para 20 of G.O dd 19th March 1878 No 113

the

the area in each revenue field irrigated monthly, when the crop is cut to measure these pieces up, and enter them in an Irrigation Chitta, and to make certain returns.

3. If care be taken to guard against unnecessary elaboration of accounts, all the above duties fall within the very day work of any Karnam. Were the Canal a Govt. work, no one would dream of giving him any assistance to perform them, for, whether he be temporarily absent or present, not a single foot of soil is either irrigated or cultivated without his knowledge: in point of fact, as every revenue Officer can see for himself at a Jamabundi, the Karnam has always an unrecognized Assistant, often a relative, who keeps things going in the Village during the absence

absence or sickness of his principal.

4. But we are entangled with a Company, which seeks in every direction but the true one for the causes of its failure. I had arrived independently at much the same conclusions as those expressed by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, but I cannot admit with him that, in this matter, the Company have reasonable cause of complaint against Government.

* Vide Ltr. No. 3727 Nov/77 No. 3311

5. If we were sure at the commencement of the Company's career, that it could not get on without the Village Karnam, any more than Govt. can. Mr. Latham, however, knows better, and he did not cease to agitate until he was allowed to substitute his own Officers. Having got what he wanted, with a result easily foreseen, he harks back

back to the Sheltering arms of the Karnam Curr the Canal Officer, and now he proposes to go still further in the same direction by appointing a Canal Karnam for each Village. It will thus be seen, that he is responsible to no small extent for the evils of which he complains.

6. If the Canals were a Govt work, no remuneration would be required for the Karnam. The sanctioned per centage under the Canal Rules is 6 pice in each rupee of water rate. It is proposed now to increase this to 1 anna; that is to say, Govt are asked to forego 6 3/4 per cent of the inconsiderable revenue yielded by the work, in order to secure the performance of a duty for which the Karnam is really paid already.

7. It being assumed, however, that this measure has already been decided on, the only possible method of working it will be, I do, as the Special Sub. Collector proposes, i.e. to make each Karnam, nominate a Deputy to take his place during his absence, for whom he should be responsible. I agree that the object being to render revenue — Canal administration part of a homogeneous whole, this end would be defeated, if an Assistant Karnam were appointed for Canal work alone. He must be the regular Karnam's recognized deputy in the performance of all duties requiring attention during the temporary absence of the former Officer.

8. I do not, however, concur in recommending

-mending the introduction of this system in large Villages merely. This would never check the evil.

9. It would be idle to deny, that the chief advantage of the costly scheme placed before Government consists in depriving the Company's Officers for the future of one of those "Causes of complaint" which, as Col. Mullins observes, "it may be much to their future interest that they should remain". It is quite plain that, if the arrangement is not carried out universally, the opportunity for vague complaints, couched in the excited language which has too frequently been adopted, will remain, and will not fail to be taken full advantage of as long as a single Village is unprovided.

30/19

10. Excluding Nandiad, Kottapatto and Chatirayenmala for which regular assistant Kurnams are required and must be appointed, there are 130 Villages under Canal irrigation in this District. To each of these I would insist on the nomination and registration of a Deputy. As I have stated above this course will entail no hardship on the regular Kurnam. Moreover, I learn from Mr. Lester that he has actually already procured the assent of all the Kurnams

to

to the arrangement. In every village there is a considerable extent of land, admittedly likely to come under irrigation shortly and one of the first results of the arrangement would be to throw the weight of the Karnam's influence into the scale of the extension of legitimate irrigation.

11. At the same time if it is finally decided to adopt the 1 anna rate, I have the honor to recommend that it should be limited to a maximum of Rs 5 per month which is ample for any one village.

12. I now turn to the second of Mr Dickson's proposals. This is embodied in his letter No 105 dated 14 May 1878.

13. He requests sanction for the appointment of 8 Revenue Inspectors, who are to be employed on canal work only. Their duties are to be, the supervision and instruction of Kurnams, the checking of accounts, the inspection of irrigation, the measuring up of bits of fields, the plotting out of sub-divisions of fields on the Village Maps, and the examination of withered crops.

14. One Inspector is wanted for each of the Taluks of Ramalakota and Koilkuntla, and two for each of the Taluks of Standial, Serwell and Standikottur. Their pay is to be Rs 30 per mensem each. Eight peons on Rs 6 are required for them. This proposal entails a further annual charge of Rs 3,456, equal to 2.8 per cent of the estimated irrigation revenue this year in Kurnool Rs. (1,20,000).

15.

15. Including the proposed remuneration to Kurnams, and the cost of 4 additional Revenue Inspectors, whom I understand Mr Lister has recommended for Cuddapah, 9.4 per cent of the estimated earnings of the Canal will be absorbed by these arrangements.

16. Superior authority must decide whether it is prepared to relinquish this amount, in addition to 18.8 per cent for the Special Sub Collector's Establishment, and in face of the fact that, according to the Canal Budget, the estimated revenue, even if realised, will not cover the cost of the Company's Salaried Staff for 1878-79.

Revenue Kurnool Rs 120000
Cuddapah 10,000
Total Rs 130,000 - 141,138
Deficit Rs 11,138.
Salaries of Staff Rupees

17. All revenue officers are at one with Mr Lister in advocating a large increase to the Revenue Inspectorate of Districts; but it is, at the same time, undeniable that irrigation revenue far larger, and interests, incomparably greater than any involved in the Kurnool Canal, are not seriously jeopardised owing to the alleged weakness of the inspecting establishments. 13 & 21

18. As was stated above regarding the Kurnams, the sole defence of the proposed expenditure lies in the necessity for putting an end to the systematic complaints against the revenue system. The Irrigation Canals will have Establishments as strong and perfect as it is possible to make them - far more so than are thought, or found, necessary for the protection of the Government revenues. If there is any soundness in the management of the concern therefore, it must now at once show itself.

I have &c
(Signed) C. S. Crole
Ag. Collector
(True Copy)

Ag: Secretary

C.S.

Enclosure in Brand's
Proceedings to the
Secretary to Govt of
Madras Public Dept
No 1309/22
dated 26th August 1878

Ans 26.8.78.

1309/22

Kurnool
August 20th

My dear Mr Master,

Vide Board's Proceedings
No 2.067 of 25th July. Para 2.
"For three villages where the irrigation
interests are considerable viz Nandial,
Kottapalli, and Chakrayapenda one
Assistant Revenue Officer for Kurnool
Museum is required"

Kottapalli is a hamlet
of Nandial, and my paragraph
19 seems pretty clear: only two

1309
23

and not three Salary
Assistant Kurnums are wanted.
one for Chakirajaveemla — and
one for Nundial, who will
be employed in the hamlet of
Kottapalli.

Yours sincerely
Allister.

No 9 Rev Dept.

Memo for Order
on Revenue Board of Revenue dated
25th July 1878 No 2067.

1. One of the two subjects discussed in the papers recorded above has already been disposed of by the resolution recorded in B.R. 22nd July 1878 No. 1861 to the entertainment of the Revenue Inspectors considered by Mr Foster indispensable for the Salt & through which the Irrigation and Canal Conservancy Canal lands.

2. The other matter relates to the Assistant Commissioners establishment and arrangements which are to be reported for approval by B.R. 19th March 1878 No. 423 N.D. para 3)

3. Mr Foster, the Special Sub Collector expresses very decided

decided views on the policy of improving the administration by making the regular canal officials absolutely responsible for the duties required in connection with the Canal work as part of their ordinary and legitimate business, and to this end provisions that these canal officials should provide a deputy to attend to all the affairs appertaining to the office during their unavoidable absence, the remuneration derived from the Company's revenue under the Rules being paid to the responsible officials not the registered canal officials of the village. His proposal in short is that each canal village be required to nominate a friend or relative to be duly registered as deputy

Deputy Canal Officials will conduct the duties of the [illegible] during the absence of the Canal Officials and on his responsibility the Canal Officials will make his own arrangements about remuneration with his deputy.

4. In two cases only is it proposed to provide a separate allowance on the 10 per cent. basis, viz. where a canal village is separated from the Canal Officials charge by a considerable distance, and where the ordinary revenue is large: in the latter case the remuneration is suggested.

5. To provide sufficient funds for the payment of the canal officials generally. The Visitor would raise the rates for boats in

Deputy Canal Officials
Canal Officials [illegible]
[illegible] allowance
[illegible]
Canal Officials [illegible]
Canal [illegible]
Good economy

I am not quite certain whether the Collector is correct in speaking of three cases I read. We in this letter to refer to two as I cannot find on the closed list any reference to those of Hathazarie.

Amount of charges
Emoluments fund
£ 2- or 3 Canal Officials
Expenses entered
first at the cost
of the Co. except the
Bd Commissioners
Three cases [illegible] the
limiting the [illegible]
in the case of [illegible]

How would probably decrease as the Revenue increases.

Number of Canal Officials
of the Co. is [illegible]
paid by [illegible]
the Co. Head Agent
the Engineer &c

Revised Water-rate Rules
No 21 Dec 5th Dec 1859

Guarantee Existing
Establishments
Same head
the above &c is
Short & concise
Rule. Practical

in the rupee of the adjusted gross demand) to one anna - taking the statements accompanying his letter as showing approximately the water-rate now levied it would appear from the marginal abstract that the one anna rate would produce Rs 5095 for the remuneration of the Canal in 133 villages in the 5 Talaks in Kurnool now under irrigation from the Channel or an average rate of rather more than 3 Rs per measure for each village.

b. The Acting Collector agrees that the only possible way of working the measure will be that which Mr Lester proposes and would insist on the nomination and registration of a Deputy for every village but as regards the one anna rate would limit the sum payable in any one village to Rs 5 per measure a sum which he considers ample for any single village.

7. The Board support the proposals but would make no limit as to percentage remuneration in the mode suggested by Mr Cole because such an arrangement might tend to take away from the cultivators the inducement to promote cultivation under the Canal.

8. They assume that similar arrangements will be required in Cuddapah - and request that sanction may be given for altering

Water rate

* Talaks - an abstract showing the same will be furnished at 10 Clock (2) 1 anna in the rupee of the adjusted gross demand.

Talaks	Number of Villages	Gross Water-rate	At 4 Pies per rupee Rate 25.00.0-12-77 Rs 3359 K.S.	At 1 anna per Rupee
		Rs a p	Rs a p	Rs a
Nunnakellal	11	9720 10 3	303 14 -	607 12
Koilkuntla	15	7691 4 3	239 11 6	477 1
Nundikotkur	42	23642 8 6	988 14 -	1977 12
Nandial	30	15392 7 2	481 - -	962 -
Sowell	25	9101 6 7	526 6 6	1068 12
Total	123			5093 13

I agree with Mr B. for the present at least - Canal.

1309
27

Water-rate Rule XXI by the substitution of one assessment for five per.

Inspection

Q. The Board ask for an explanation of the circumstance brought to notice by Mr. Lister viz that in the three Talukes of Nawalacollah, Hawdikottiar and Thondiah no assessment has ever been received by the Canarese though such is provided for, as already shewn in the rules. They indicate also the method in which this money should in future be disbursed and to this there appears to be no objection.

E.C.C.

Ed 7/05

Revenue Department

No 1309

1389/28

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 15th August 1878

Read the following

Proceedings of the Board

of Revenue dated 25 July

1878 No. 2067.

In the question of the
entertainment of additional
Revenue Inspectors for Irri-
-gation duties in the Kurnool
and Cuddapah Districts
has already been disposed
of by the sanction accorded
in G.O. 22nd July 1878 No 1141 R.D.

2. The second question
discussed in the papers
recorded

Asst Commr &c
Guntoor

Special Officer
Kurnool Cuddapah

No 2276

1878.

recorded above relates to the appointment of Assistant Kurnams regarding whom detailed arrangements were to be reported for approval with reference to paragraph 3 of G.O. 19 March 1878 No 423 R.D.

3. As the Irrigation and Canal Company's Agent is in favor of the higher rate of remuneration viz one anna in the Rupee of the Company's adjusted gross demand, His Grace the Governor in Council is pleased to sanction the modification of the water-rate rule* XXI by the substitution of "one anna" for "six pies"; on the

* G.O. Cir/77 No 3359

her condition that each Kurnam is to nominate a Deputy to act for him in every capacity in his absence from the village and on his responsibility, he providing the remuneration.

4. His Gov. understand that the Assistant salaried Kurnams, whose appointment is proposed in paras 1 and 2 of Mr. Liesters letter, are to be paid at the cost of the Company.

5. His Grace in Council accepts the Board's recommendations throughout. and the result should be reported in due course.

To L. Rev. Board of Revenue dtd 15 Aug
14 Board's dtd 20 Aug
Re Ry dtd 20 Aug
The Accountant General

90

Appointt. of Asst. Com-
missrs for Irrign.
&c. matters in [illegible]
[illegible]

Urgent

Sir W. Robinson

[illegible]

B 177-75

C 1[illegible]-75
R 14-[illegible]-78